

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA/LC:LMRIVES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO-US RELATIONS

REF: STATE 2677; VIENTIANE 187; VIENTIANE 750

1. HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED TEXT OF 18 POINT PROGRAM
ACCEPTED BY CABINET IN JANUARY WHICH CONTAINS REFERENCES TO
QUOTE REACTIONARY HENCHMEN OF US IMPERIALISM END QUOTE
AND QUOTE STRUGGLE PERSISTENTLY AGAINST US NEOCOLONIALISM
END QUOTE. WE ALSO NOTE PHENG NORINDR'S STATEMENT IN
PARA 5 EMBTEL 187 THAT VIENTIANE SIDE ACCEPTED REFERENCES
TO US AND THAILAND IN PREAMBLE TO 18 POINTS BECAUSE THEY
WERE INCLUDED IN VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. NEITHER VIENTIANE
AGREEMENT NOR PROTOCOL SAY ANYTHING ABOUT US IMPERIALISM
AND NEOCOLONIALISM WHICH ARE PURE LPF PROPAGANDA TERMS.
WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SUCH LANGUAGE IN OFFICIAL PGNU
DOCUMENT WILL HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR EFFORTS TO MAIN-
TAIN GOOD US-LAO RELATIONS. WE ASSUME YOU WILL CONTINUE
TO FIND OCCASION TO INDICATE OUR CONCERN TO SOUVANNA,
PHOUMI AND VIENTIANE SIDE FIGURES. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR
A USEFUL EXERCISE TO ALERT PGNU TO POTENTIAL LAO BUDGETARY
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AND FEOF PROBLEMS AS RESULT PAYMENT OF LPF TROOPS OUT OF

SOLELY VIENTIANE SIDE FUNDS. WE SHALL BE INTERESTED RE
OTHER FEOF DONOR REACTION TO THIS, WHICH MAY ASSIST
VIENTIANE SIDE.

2. WE ARE ALSO PUZZLED RE PHENG PHONGSAVAN'S REPORTED
STATEMENT IN BANGKOK THAT THERE ARE NO NVA IN LAOS
EXCEPT FOR ROAD BUILDING CREWS. SOUVANNA HAS, OF
COURSE EXPRESSED SOMEWHAT SIMILAR VIEWS. ALTHOUGH THEY
MAY BE MAKING SUCH REMARKS IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAIN-
ING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE LPF, SUCH HEAD-IN-SAND
STATEMENTS TOO COULD INCREASE CONCERN HERE AT DIRECTION
PGNU SEEMS TO BE TAKING.

3. WE REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT VIENTIANE SIDE CAN DO
BETTER IN ITS OWN INTERESTS WITHOUT ENDANGERING VIABILITY
OF COALITION. KISSINGER

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